

Though the librarians eventually received the exchanges and assimilated them into the state, law or legislative libraries, it is clear that the books were usually directed to the governor or secretary of state.⁴⁷ Likewise, the secretary of state generally distributed North Carolina documents to the exchange participants. A resolution of the General Assembly in 1852 ordered the librarian to send to John S. Meehan, Librarian of Congress, some back volumes of laws, and to continue to forward them in the future. Yet when a representative of the Library of Congress complained in 1872 that there were no "North Carolina Journals" in the collection, Governor Tod R. Caldwell referred the problem to Secretary of State H.J. Menninger. In 1883 the State Librarian of Pennsylvania addressed a letter to the State Librarian of North Carolina, requesting a volume of supreme court reports; Governor Thomas J. Jarvis turned the matter over to the secretary of state.⁴⁸ The papers of the governors and secretaries of state contain numerous forms acknowledging the receipt of North Carolina documents.⁴⁹

Beginning in 1849, North Carolina participated in another exchange of documents (and literary material): Alexandre Vattemare's system of "International Literary and Scientific Exchanges". Vattemare, a native of France, organized the system in the 1840s to stimulate communication among many nations. He continued the project until his death in 1864.⁵⁰